

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 48

Supporting the goals and ideals of “National Epilepsy Awareness Month”
and urging funding for epilepsy research and service programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 4, 2003

Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAIG, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. DEWINE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of “National Epilepsy Awareness Month” and urging funding for epilepsy research and service programs.

Whereas epilepsy is a neurological condition that causes seizures and affects 2,300,000 people in the United States;

Whereas a seizure is a disturbance in the electrical activity of the brain, and 1 in every 12 Americans will suffer at least 1 seizure;

Whereas 180,000 new cases of seizures and epilepsy are diagnosed each year, and 3 percent of Americans will develop epilepsy by the time they are 75;

Whereas 41 percent of people who currently have epilepsy experience persistent seizures despite the treatment they are receiving;

Whereas a survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention demonstrated that the hardships imposed by epilepsy are comparable to those imposed by cancer, diabetes, and arthritis;

Whereas epilepsy in older children and adults remains a formidable barrier to leading a normal life by affecting education, employment, marriage, childbearing, and personal fulfillment;

Whereas uncontrollable seizures in a child can create multiple problems affecting the child's development, education, socialization, and daily life activities;

Whereas the social stigma surrounding epilepsy continues to fuel discrimination, and isolates people who suffer from seizure disorders from mainstream life;

Whereas in spite of these formidable obstacles, people with epilepsy can live healthy and productive lives and make significant contributions to society;

Whereas November is an appropriate month to designate as "National Epilepsy Awareness Month"; and

Whereas the designation of a "National Epilepsy Awareness Month" would help to focus attention on, and increase understanding of, epilepsy and those people who suffer from it: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
- 2 *concurring), That Congress—*
- 3 (1) supports the goals and ideals of a "National
- 4 Epilepsy Awareness Month";

1 (2) requests the President to issue a proclama-
2 tion declaring an annual “National Epilepsy Aware-
3 ness Month”;

4 (3) calls upon the American people to observe
5 “National Epilepsy Awareness Month” with appro-
6 priate programs and activities;

7 (4) urges an increase in funding for epilepsy re-
8 search programs at the National Institutes of Health
9 and at the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
10 tion; and

11 (5) urges that initial funding be provided to the
12 Health Resources and Services Administration of the
13 Department of Health and Human Services to cre-
14 ate demonstration projects to serve people with epi-
15 lepsy who may lack access to adequate medical care
16 for the treatment of such disease.

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